PUBLICK SPIRIT,

Illustrated in the

Life *and* Designs

Of the Reverend

Thomas Bray, D.D.

Late Minister of

St. *Botolph* without *Aldgate*.

Look not every Man on his own Things, but every Man also on the Things of others, PHIL. ii. 4.

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TO

Mrs. MARTIN.

MADAM,

THE SCHEME *of the following Sheets being to consider your excellent* Father, *chiefly in* Publick Life, *there was no Opportunity of doing You Justice: Permit me therefore in this Address to say, that Dr.* BRAY *has left a Daughter worthy of Himself, and to wish that She may long enjoy those Blessings which Providence generally bestows upon the* Posterity *of the* Righteous. *Accept this as the sincere Respect of,*

MADAM,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

The EDITOR.

THE

LIFE and DESIGNS

Of the Reverend

THOMAS BRAY, *D. D.*

DR. *Thomas Bray* was born at *Marton* in the County of *Salop*, in the Year of our Lord 1656, his Parents were Persons of good Reputation, Inhabitants of that Place; his Infancy discovering promising Parts, he was early sent to the School at *Oswestry*, in the same County, where many Gentlemens Sons had then their Education, and were prepar'd for the University; his close Application to School-Learning, soon qualify'd him for this Remove, as it also determin'd his Parents to dedicate him to Religion and Learning; accordingly he was enter'd of *Hart-Hall* in *Oxford*; here he soon became a considerable Proficient in Theological Studies, as well as the other Sciences proper to the Profession for which he was intended: But labouring under the common Disadvantages of

a narrow Fortune, his Circumſtances not permitting a longer Reſidence at *Oxford*, he left the Univerſity ſoon after he had commenced Batchelor of Arts: However, about this Time he entered into Holy Orders, and the firſt Pariſh wherein Providence placed him to exerciſe his Spiritual Function, was near *Bridgenorth* in *Shropſhire*, his native Country; from whence, after a ſhort Continuance in the Station of a Curate, he remov'd into *Warwickſhire*, where he liv'd Chaplain in Sir *Thomas Price*'s Family, of *Park-Hall*, and had the Donative of *Lay-Marſin* given him by Sir *Thomas*; this prov'd in the Event, a very advantageous Change of Situation, for living now in the Neighbourhood of *Coleſhill*, his exemplary Behaviour and diſtinguiſhed Diligence in his Calling, introduced him into the Acquaintance of Mr. *Kettlewell*, Sir *Charles Holt*, and the Lord *Simon Digby*. One Incident which contributed to eſtabliſh his Character at this Juncture, was his preaching the Aſſize-Sermon at *Warwick*; on which Occaſion Mr. *Bray*, tho' but young, acquitted himſelf to the Satisfaction of the whole Audience; one of which, the Lord *Digby*, was pleaſed afterwards to honour him with many Proofs of his Friendſhip and Eſteem, recommending him alſo to his Brother, the preſent Lord *Digby*, a Recommendation which obtain'd him the Vicarage

carage of *Over-Whitacre*, in the ſame County, ſince augmented by his Patron's uncommon Generoſity of endowing it with the great Tythes. In the Year 1690, the Rectory of *Sheldon* being vacant by Mr. *Digby Bull*'s refuſing to take the Oaths, at the *Revolution*, Mr. *Bray* had the Favour of his Lordſhip's Preſentation; which Preferment he held till about a Quarter of a Year before his Death, when he reſigned it from a Senſe of his own advanced Age, and the Satisfaction he had in foreſeeing that he ſhould ſtill ſurvive in the Zeal and Abilities of a worthy * Succeſſor. He always eſteem'd it not the leaſt Honour and Happineſs of his Life, the being preferred by ſuch a Patron as my Lord *Digby*, who was never determin'd by any other Conſideration in the Diſpoſal of Preſentations, than of chuſing the moſt uſeful Perſons to ſerve in the Church, and ſuch as he was perſuaded wou'd make the Diſcharge of their Duty the ultimate End of their Views, an Obſervation not a little to Mr. *Bray*'s Credit, as well as to the Honour of my Lord *Digby*; and I ſhould not have done Juſtice to an Example ſo worthy of Imitation, in an Age wherein moſt Patrons are governed by Party-Zeal, Self-Intereſt, and the powerful Solicitations of Friends or Relations, had I forbore the Mention of it. He

* The Reverend Mr. *Carpenter*.

He always ſpoke of his noble Benefactor, in Terms that ſufficiently diſcovered, not only a grateful Senſe of his own Obligations, but alſo a juſt Veneration for all thoſe excellent Qualities which ſignalize his Lordſhip's Character with a peculiar Diſtinction, and entitle him to univerſal Eſteem.

In this Pariſh of *Sheldon* he compos'd his Catechetical Lectures; a Work ſo well receiv'd, and generally circulated, that three Thouſand proved not too great a Number for the firſt Impreſſion. It was eſteem'd by many of the firſt Diſtinction in the Church, as the moſt accurate Performance extant on the Subject, and was dedicated to that very learned Prelate, Biſhop *Lloyd*, by whoſe Perſuaſion it was publiſh'd, and of whoſe Favour and Eſteem Mr. *Bray* had a more than ordinary Share. The Publication of theſe Lectures, the firſt Fruits of his Piety and Learning, drew him out of his rural Privacy to *London*, and introduced him into a more conſpicuous and remarkable Scene of Action. There was ſoon a Demand for a ſecond Impreſſion, and by both Impreſſions, at a very reaſonable Price, he clear'd upward of ſeven hundred Pounds. Nor had he room to doubt a much greater Advantage from the ſucceeding Parts, ſo faſt did the Subſcriptions come in for the ſecond Volume, which was in the Preſs,

but

but was ſuperſeded by another Undertaking.

In the Years 1691 and 1692, the then Governor and Aſſembly of *Maryland* divided that Province into Pariſhes, and eſtabliſhed a legal Maintenance for the reſpective Miniſters. In the Month of *October* 1695, they took into Conſideration the Expediency of having ſome one Clergyman to preſide over the reſt; and in order to ſupport ſome ſuch ſuperintendent Commiſſary, or Suffragan, they unanimouſly agreed in a Petitionary Act, to their then Majeſties King *William* and Queen *Mary*, to annex, for ever, the judicial Office of Commiſſary, before in the Diſpoſal of the Governor, to that which is purely Eccleſiaſtical, and at the Appointment of the Biſhop of *London*. And they wrote to his Lordſhip * to ſend them over ſome experienced, unexceptionable Clergyman for the Office intended. The Reputation Mr. *Bray* had acquired by his Lectures, and the other Qualities that adorn his Function, hinder'd the Biſhop from being one Moment at a Loſs for a fit Perſon to model that Infant Church, and eſtabliſh it on a ſolid Foundation. Accordingly, in *April* 1696, he propos'd to Mr. *Bray* to go on the Terms of having the Judicial Office of Commiſſary, valued, as was repreſented to him, at 400 *l.*

 per

* Biſhop *Compton*.

per Annum, conferred upon him, for his Support in that Service. Mr. *Bray* disregarding his own Interest, and the great Profit which wou'd have arose from finishing his Course of Lectures on the Plan he had formed, a Work which met with general Approbation and Encouragement, soon determined in his own Mind that there might be a greater Field for doing Good in the Plantations, than by his Labours here. Being always willing to be so dispos'd of in any Station as shou'd appear most conducive to the Service of God's Church; he no longer demurred to the Proposal, than to enquire into the State of the Country, and inform himself what was most wanting to excite good Ministers to embark in that Design, as well as to enable them most effectually to promote it. With this View he laid before the Bishops the following Considerations:—That none but the poorer sort of Clergy cou'd be persuaded to leave their Friends and change their Native Country for one so remote;—That such Persons cou'd not be able sufficiently to supply themselves with Books;— That without such a competent Provision of Books, they cou'd not answer the Design of their Mission;— That a Library wou'd be the best Encouragement to studious and sober Men to undertake the Service: And that as the great Inducement to himself to go, wou'd be

be to do the moſt Good he cou'd be capable of doing, he therefore propos'd to their Lordſhips, That if they thought fit to encourage and aſſiſt him in providing Parochial Libraries for the Miniſters that ſhou'd be ſent, he wou'd then be content to accept of the Commiſſary's Office in *Maryland*. This Propoſal for Parochial Libraries being well approved of by the Biſhops, and due Encouragement being promiſed in the Proſecution of the Deſign, both by their Lordſhips and others, he ſet himſelf with all poſſible Application to provide Miſſionaries, and to furniſh them with Libraries, intending, as ſoon as he ſhou'd have ſent both, to follow after them himſelf.

But upon his accepting of this Employment of Commiſſary of *Maryland*, it fell to his Share to ſolicit at Home, whatever other Matters related to that Church, more particularly to the Settlement and Eſtabliſhment thereof; and it happen'd that the Law for its Eſtabliſhment having been ſent here for the Royal Aſſent, was rejected, on account of a Clauſe in it, whereby it was enacted, *That the Great Charter of* England *ſhould be kept and obſerved, in all Points, within the ſaid Province*; being a Clauſe of another nature, than was ſet forth in the Title of the ſaid Law: And the Biſhop of *London* having obtain'd at Council, that Inſtructions ſhould be given to have an-

other Bill form'd and paſs'd into an Act, with Promiſe that it ſhould be confirm'd, if form'd and paſs'd according to ſuch Inſtructions: Mr. *Bray*, with the Advice of his Lordſhip and others well skill'd in Plantation Affairs, got a Bill drawn up according to the Inſtructions, and tranſmitted it to *Maryland* to be re-enacted in the ſucceeding Aſſembly.

In the mean time, till the return of a new Act from *Maryland* to be confirm'd by the Sovereign, he was wholly and fully employ'd under the Biſhop of *London*, in enquiring out and providing Miſſionaries to be ſent as into that Province, on a Preſumption that the Eſtabliſhment of the Church might be at laſt obtain'd; ſo into the other Colonies on the Continent of *America*, and into moſt of the Iſlands, ſeveral of which had never before enjoy'd any ſtanding Miniſtry. But above all, it was his Care to furniſh out thoſe whom he had a Hand in ſending, with good Libraries of neceſſary and uſeful Books, to render them capable of anſwering the Ends of their Miſſion, and inſtructing the People in all Things neceſſary to their Salvation: And this truly found him Employment enough; tho' on account of the more than ordinary Service ſuch a Magazine of divine Knowledge might be of, he could never be brought to regret the Undertaking, how-

ever chargeable, as well as laborious, it prov'd ; one half of either Coſt or Pains in which it engaged him, muſt have diſcouraged any one leſs ſenſible to the Impreſſions of a religious Zeal, from proſecuting it. His only Comfort was, that the Libraries he had begun and advanc'd more or leſs in all the Provinces on the Continent, and in moſt of the Iſlands of *America*, as alſo in the Factories in *Africa*, did not only ſerve the then Miniſters with whom they were firſt ſent, but by the Care of ſome of the Governments, and by Acts of Aſſembly, ſettling the Rules he had preſcribed for their Uſe and Preſervation, they might be alſo of Advantage to many ſucceeding Generations.

Among other Miſſionaries ſent at this Time with Libraries, Mr. *Bray* procur'd, by good Providence, and preſented to the Biſhop of *London*, two Men as pious and happy in their Conduct, as could have been found ; one Mr. *Clayton*, ſent to *Philadelphia* in *Penſilvania*; the other, Mr. *Marſhal*, ſent to *Charles Town* in *Carolina* : Neither of theſe worthy Perſons found at their Enterance, above Fifty of our Communion to make up their Congregation, and yet both approv'd themſelves ſo well to the Inhabitants of their reſpective Places, that in two Years time the Congregation at *Philadelphia*, the Metropolis of the

Quakers,

Quakers, was increaſed to ſeven Hundred, and an handſome Church was erected; and at *Charles Town*, to near as many, where not only a Church was built, but alſo purely out of reſpect to Mr. *Marſhal*, a new Brick Houſe for his better Accommodation, a fine Plantation, with a perpetual Stock of two Negroe Servants and two Cows, with 150 *l.* a Year were ſettled on them and their Succeſſors for ever. It pleaſed God, that both theſe Perſons died in about two Years after their Arrival, and both died of contagious Diſtempers, which they had taken in the Execution of their Duty, and Viſiting their Sick, leaving moſt amiable Characters behind them. The Libraries Mr. *Bray* ſent with theſe Gentlemen, continue to their Succeſſors, and he has at ſeveral times ſince, procur'd and made conſiderable Additions to them, as he did to moſt others, both in *America* and *Africa*. The Senſe of the Clergy and Inhabitants, with reſpect thereto, was teſtify'd by the ſolemn Letters of Thanks return'd to him, as from the Aſſemblies of *Maryland*, ſo from the Veſtries of *Boſton* and *Braintree* in *New England*, from *Newfoundland*, *Rhode Iſland*, *New-York*, *Philadelphia*, *North-Carolina*, *Bermudas*, and by the Acknowledgments of the *Royal African* Company, on account of thoſe procur'd for their Factories.

About

About the ſame time it was, that the Secretary of *Maryland*, Sir *Thomas Lawrence*, with Mr. *Bray*, waited on the then Princeſs of *Denmark*, in behalf of that Province, humbly to requeſt her gracious Acceptance of the Governor's and Country's dutiful Reſpects, in having denominated the Metropolis of the Province, and then but lately built, from her Royal Highneſs's Name, *Annapolis*: And the latter being ſoon after favour'd with a noble Benefaction from the ſame Royal Hand, towards his Libraries in *America*, he dedicated the *primier* Library in thoſe Parts, fix'd at *Annapolis*, and which has Books of the choiceſt kind belonging to it, to the Value of 400 *l.* to her glorious Memory, by the Title of *The Annapolitan Library*; which Words were inſcrib'd on the ſeveral Books, as well in Gratitude to Her Majeſty, as for the better Prevention of Loſs or Embezzlement.

Soon after, upon the repeated Inſtances of the Governor and ſome of the Country, Mr. *Bray* was at the Charge of taking the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, which Degree, tho' it might be thought to be of ſome Uſe, which reſpect to his having a better regard paid to the Church, as well as himſelf, in *Maryland*, did, however then, but ill comport with his Circumſtances.

Immediately following, the better to promote his main Deſign of Libraries, and to give

give the Miſſionaries Directions in the Proſecution of their Theological Studies, he publiſh'd two Books, one entitled, *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, or a Scheme of ſuch Theological Heads, both general and particular, as are more peculiarly requiſite to be well ſtudied by every Paſtor of a Pariſh, together with a Catalogue of Books, which may be read on each of thoſe Points; the other, *Apoſtolick Charity, its Nature and Excellency conſidered*, in a Diſcourſe upon *Dan.* xii. 3. preach'd at St. *Paul's*, at the Ordination of ſome Proteſtant Miſſionaries to be ſent into the Plantations, to which is perfix'd a general View of the *Engliſh* Colonies in *America*, in order to ſhew what Proviſion is wanting for the Propagation of Chriſtianity in thoſe Parts, together with Propoſals for the promoting the ſame, and to induce ſuch of the Clergy of this Kingdom, as are Perſons of Sobriety and Abilities, to accept of a Miſſion. In the Year 1696, the Law for eſtabliſhing and endowing the Church, was re-enacted in *Maryland*, and came over a ſecond Time to the Lords of the Council of Trade, together with a moſt humble addreſs to be preſented to his Majeſty, in behalf of the ſaid Law, requeſting the Royal Confirmation. But it being found that this ſecond Law alſo, contrary to the Inſtructions, contain'd in it a Clauſe of a different Nature, by declaring all the Laws in *England*

land to be in Force in *Maryland*; it was thought adviſeable not to ſolicit the Royal Aſſent to it, as being ſure it would be rejected, for the ſame Reaſon as the former, and then the Church's Maintainance would wholly drop. And in the mean Time, it being promis'd at Court, that the then Law, ſuch as it was, ſhould remain unrepeal'd, till another ſhould be ſent here, agreeable to the Royal Inſtructions; the Doctor wrote to the Province to have it revis'd and reenacted, according to the former Inſtructions, ſignifying to them, that otherwiſe it would never paſs.

He receiv'd no Advantage from his Commiſſary's Place in *Maryland*, all this Time, neither was any Allowance made him at home, or Preferment given him, to ſupport the Charge of living altogether in Town, to ſolicit the Eſtabliſhment and Endowment of the Church of *Maryland*, and to provide Miſſionaries for that, and all the Colonies on the Continent, which, except *Virginia*, lay upon him; all the Benefactions that were receiv'd, being to be laid out to raiſe them Libraries, which alſo he did, faſter than Money came in to anſwer the Charge.

During this Interval, *viz.* in the Year 1697, a Bill being brought into the Houſe of Commons to alienate Lands given to Superſtitious Uſes, and to veſt them in *Greenwich-Hoſpital.* He preſer'd a Petition to

 the

the Houſe, that ſome Share thereof might be appropriated for the Propagation of the true Religion in the Plantations, and that the ſame ſhould be veſted in a Body Politick, to be erected for that Purpoſe, which Petition was receiv'd very well in the Houſe, and a fourth Part of all that ſhould be diſcover'd, after one Moiety to the Diſcoverer, was readily and unanimouſly allotted by the Committee for that Uſe. It being thought by far more reaſonable, to appropriate ſome Part, at leaſt, of what was given to ſuperſtitious Uſes, to Uſes truly pious, than altogether to other, tho' charitable Purpoſes. But the Bill was never ſuffer'd to be reported.

In the Year 1698, failing of a publick and ſettled Proviſion by Law, for carrying on the Service of the Church in *Maryland*, and the other Plantations, he addreſſed his Majeſty for a Grant of ſome Arrears of Taxes due to the Crown, and ſome Time after, was obliged to be at the Charge and Trouble of going over to the King in *Holland*, to have the Grant compleated. The Recovery of theſe Arrears of Taxes, was repreſented as very feaſible, and very valuable, and alſo without any Grievance to the Subject; but they prov'd as troubleſome to be recover'd, ſo of ſcarce any Value.

All Deſigns failing of getting a publick Fund for the Propagation of the Goſpel in Foreign Parts, he thereupon form'd a Deſign, whereof he then drew the Plan, of having a Pro-

a Proteſtant Congregation, *pro Fide propaganda*, by Charter from the King. But Things did not ſeem ripe enough to encourage him to proceed at that Time in the Attempt, and ſo he laid it aſide, till a more favourable Juncture ſhould occur. However, to prepare the Way for ſuch Charter-Society, he ſoon after endeavour'd to form a Voluntary Society, both to carry on the Service already begun for the Plantations, and to propagate Chriſtian Knowledge, as well at home as abroad; hoping, as afterwards he did in Time, to get ſuch a Society incorporated. Nor was it long before he found ſome worthy Perſons ready to form this Voluntary Society.

Theſe Gentlemen have ſince increas'd to a conſiderable Body, and no ſmall Good has been done by them, as they aſſiſted him in ſending Libraries abroad, and as they have diſpers'd Numbers of excellent Books among our Fleets and Armies, rais'd Charity-Schools in and about the City, and promoted the ſame by their Correſpondences in ſeveral Parts of the Kingdom. I ſhould be unjuſt to this excellent Society, as well as to the Memory of Dr. *Bray*, their Founder, in omitting a noble Effort of their Zeal for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge abroad, *viz.* That four Thouſand five Hundred Pſalters, ten Thouſand New Teſtaments, with a great Number of Catechiſms, a ſhort Hiſtory of

the Bible, &c. have been printed by it, for the Uſe of the *Eaſtern* Churches ; ſeveral of theſe have been ſent over, and gratefully receiv'd, and this Kingdom hath thereby had an Opportunity of reſtoring, in ſome Meaſure, the Light of the Goſpel, both in *Syria*, *Arabia*, and *Egypt*, and alſo in thoſe Countries from whence we firſt receiv'd it. But to proceed, of a like mix'd Nature, having a Reference to ſome Service at home, as well as abroad, was another Deſign ſet on Foot by the Doctor at this Time, of raiſing Lending Libraries in every Deanery throughout *England* and *Wales*, out of which, the neighbouring Clergy might borrow the Books they had Occaſion for, and where they might meet to conſult upon Matters relating to their Function, and to Learning ; Dr. *Bray* may perhaps be here cenſured for concerning himſelf in carrying on this Affair at home, at the ſame Time that he was engaged to promote a foreign Charity. But the good Man's Inducement to it, as he has been heard to declare was, *Firſt*, Becauſe having never, for his own Part, enjoyed in the Church what would enable him to furniſh himſelf with a ſufficient Stock of neceſſary and uſeful Books, to qualify himſelf for his Profeſſion, he became thereby more ſenſible of the Wants of his Brethren, in like Circumſtances. *Secondly*, That in his Soli-

citation

citation for Benefactions to Libraries in the Plantations, he often met with Anſwers to this Effect; That we had poor Cures and poor Parſons enough in *England*, and that Charity ſhould begin at Home: Now he thought it not amiſs to Strike the Nail that would drive, and to give ſuch Anſwerers an Opportunity of exerciſing their Beneficence to the Church, in the Way to which, they were moſt inclin'd, and therefore, without the leaſt Interruption of his Endeavours for the Plantations, he ſet on Foot this Deſign alſo at home.

Many lending Libraries were thereupon founded in ſeveral Parts of the Kingdom, and as thoſe Libraries were intended for the Clergy to meet and confer in, rather than in their own private Houſes, which would cauſe Expence, or in publick Houſes, which beſides the Expence might give Scandal; ſo if the ſame Topicks were made the ſubject of their Converſation, as had been reſolv'd on in the firſt Library of that Kind, which was founded by a noble Lord, his Neighbour and Patron, already mentioned, the Doctor cou'd not imagine what could be better purſued, in order to keep the Country Clergy to their Rule, and cloſe to their Duty, and thereby to advance their Character and Reputation, and to create a due Veneration towards them. The Reſolutions they formed, were theſe — That they will

will meet in their Library Monthly, or oftner, to conſider or confer, as upon Ways and Means of augmenting the ſame with the beſt Books, ſo to conſult upon the beſt Methods of furniſhing the common People with ſmall practical and devotional Tracts, of Principling the Children and Youth with Catechetical Inſtructions, for erecting Schools for the Education of poor Children, of getting the Laws put in Execution againſt Profaneneſs and Immorality, and by what other Means they can beſt diſcharge their Paſtoral Care and Duty, and promote publick Good; and in order to their better Knowledge of the Duties of their Function, and forming no other Reſolutions but what ſhall be agreeable to the Conſtitution of our Church, that at every Meeting they will read over ſome Part, and that ſucceſſively, till they ſhall go thro' the Whole of their *Ordination Vows*, of the *Articles*, *Rubricks*, and *Canons* of the Church, of the Royal *Injunctions* and *Proclamations*, and *Acts of Parliament* ordered to be read in Churches, thoſe eſpecially againſt *Profaneneſs* and *Immorality*; and laſtly, the *Articles of Enquiry* exhibited at both Epiſcopal and Archidiaconal Viſitations, and that as well to furniſh themſelves with proper and ſuitable Matter for their Converſation there, inſtead of mere News and other

Imper-

Impertinences, as the better to know their Duty, and take the beſt Meaſures about it.

Now, had Dr. *Bray* had nothing farther in View in his Eſſay to promote neceſſary and uſeful Knowledge at home, as well as abroad, than to repreſent the miſerable Want of Books among the Parochial Clergy throughout the Kingdom, the ill Conſequences of ſuch Want, both to themſelves and People, and the eaſieſt Method to ſupply it by the Means of Lending Libraries, one at leaſt in every Deanery, which, if placed in ſome Market Town neareſt the Centre, the neighbouring Clergy, and others might, without further Trouble, than the ſending on a Market-Day, by their own, or a Neighbour's Servant, borrow at any Time the Book they want. This alone conſider'd, it ſeems to be a moſt laudable Deſign, and the Succeſs it has met with is ſuch, that there are not many Dioceſes in the Kingdom, where Libraries of this kind are not more or leſs advanced.

But in Truth he had ſomething farther in View, in that his Deſign of having publick Libraries for the Parochial Clergy in every Deanery; which was to reduce into Practice, and to reſtore more and more, by Degrees, the antient Uſe of Rural Deans, and the Juriſdiction pertaining to their reſpective Deaneries; whereby, as an excellent Diſcipline was formerly maintain'd in

our

our Church, ſo it might be again, in a good Meaſure, reviv'd; in ſuch a Manner, at leaſt, as not to give the Occaſion we now have, every *Aſh-Wedneſday*, to lament its Loſs or Decay among us: And, indeed, whoever ſhall conſider the antient Conſtitution of our Rural Deaneries, as repreſented in an Extract the Doctor has made from ſome of our Antiquaries, and how admirably they were fitted for good Diſcipline, and ſhall compare that with what is already found practicable in the Clergy's Meeting at their Libraries, ſpoke of above, he will be apt to conclude, that as her antient Diſcipline is the Church of *England*'s Wiſh, and the Deſire of all good People, ſo no Means ſeem more likely to reſtore it, than the having Libraries in our ſeveral Rural Deaneries for the Clergy to meet in, where they may act to ſuch Purpoſes, and according to ſuch Powers as ſhall be allow'd them. I might here alſo ſpeak of the Beginnings Dr. *Bray* made towards Parochial Catechetical Libraries in the *Iſle of Man*, as well as in the mean Cures both in *England* and *Wales*; but of this hereafter.

About this Time it was, that ſome of his Friends obſerving that no Proviſion was made to ſupport him in the expenſive Service he had undertaken for the Plantations, he was much perſuaded to lay that Deſign aſide, and had withal two good Preferments offered

offered him at home of as good, or better Value, than what was propos'd for him in *Maryland*, *viz.* that of Sub-Almoner, and the Donative of *Aldgate* in the City. But he declin'd all Offers that were inconsistent with his going to *Maryland*, as soon as it should become proper for him to take that Voyage.

By the Year 1699, having waited upwards of two Years for the Return of the *Act of Religion* from *Maryland*, with such Amendments as wou'd render it without Exception at the Court of *England*; and it being presum'd by his Superiors, that it wou'd be requisite the Doctor shou'd now hasten over, as well to encourage the passing of that Act in their Assemblies, as to promote other Matters for the Service of Religion there, it was signified to him from them, that they wou'd have him take the Opportunity of the first Ship: And, indeed, the Doctor having by this Time try'd all the Ways he cou'd think of, and done all that he was able to do here, to serve those Parts, and, according to Proposal, having provided *Maryland*, as also many other Colonies, with a competent Number of Ministers, and furnish'd them with good Libraries, to be fix'd in the Places where they were sent, to remain there for ever; he was of himself eager to follow, and did accordingly, even in the Winter, tho' he had no

Allowance made him towards the Charge of the Voyage, and the Service he was to do, but was forced to diſpoſe of his own ſmall Effects, and raiſe Money on Credit to ſupport him in it.

With this poor Encouragement, and thus on his own Proviſion, he took his Voyage *December* 16, 1699, and arriv'd in *Maryland* after an extream tedious and dangerous Paſſage, the 12th of *March* following; but before I proceed to what immediately followed on his Arrival, there remains ſomething not unworthy to be mentioned, done on this Side the Water, and before he left the *Engliſh* Shore, with relation to the Miſſionaries and Libraries.

He had obſerv'd long before this, that the Miſſionaries were often detain'd ſeveral Weeks, and ſometimes Months in our Sea-Ports, before they cou'd go off, more eſpecially in Time of War, when not only the want of Wind, but of Convoys, occaſion'd ſuch Stay; and he had often reflected upon it, as of Conſequence to them, to have a Library in each of the Sea-Ports where they uſually embark, in which they might ſtudy, during their Stay on Shore, and this, not only that they might loſe no Time toward their better Improvement, but to prevent alſo the Expence and Scandal to which they might be expos'd, by ſauntring away whole Hours together in Coffee-Houſes, or perhaps leſs

ſober

ſober Places; but could they have a Library in each of thoſe Ports to be in all the Time they would ſpare from their Meals, and where they might recreate themſelves after hard ſtudy, with the Converſation of their Brethren, whether Fellow Miſſionaries, or the Sea Chaplains, or other ingenious Paſſengers in Port, and were the Uſe of thoſe Libraries ſtrictly enjoin'd them at their Departure, he preſum'd, ſcarcely any thing would contribute more to the Advantage and Reputation of our Miſſions and Miſſionaries; the Ports being generally very looſe Places, and dangerous for young Men to abide in long, and where without Employment and a ſuitable Retirement, they will be much expos'd to ſuch Temptations as will ſtain their Characters; upon which Conſideration, and preſuming withal, that if the Foundation of ſuch Sea-Port Libraries were once laid but by a few Books, it would be no great Difficulty to obtain conſiderable Additions from the Benefactions of the Sea-Officers, who are uſually generous enough, as well as from other Gentlemen, if the Clergy in ſuch Places would be zealous and active in promoting the Deſign; he form'd proper Propoſals for the raiſing ſuch Libraries, obtain'd ſome Benefactions toward making a Beginning, and took along with him ſome Books to depoſit for that Purpoſe in each Port as

ſhould happen in his Way, or wherein Providence ſhould caſt him; and it having happen'd, that he himſelf paſs'd thro' and was detain'd in three ſeveral Places of this kind, ſo as to experience himſelf the Uſe of what he had before projected, he accordingly put the Deſign on Foot in each of them, *viz.* at *Graveſend*, *Deal*, and at *Plymouth*; but from the laſt of theſe, I have ſomething farther to remark:

Dr. *Bray* ſet ſail from the *Downs* the 20th of *December*, and being drove into *Plymouth Sound* on *Chriſtmas-Eve*, remain'd in Harbour almoſt all the Holidays, where his Time was not unuſefully ſpent, if it were but with reſpect to the Recovery of a tolerable Library there out of Duſt and Rubbiſh, which was alſo indebted to him for a Benefaction of Books, and where he left a Propoſal for taking in Subſcriptions to make it a Sea-Port Library for the Uſe of Miſſionaries and Sea Chaplains, as well as others.

The Doctor arrived, as we ſaid above, at *Maryland* on the 12th of *March*, where being not ſo much concern'd at his own as the Churches Unſettlement, he apply'd himſelf immediately and wholly to repair the Breach made in the Settlement of the Parochial Clergy; in order to which, he conſulted in the firſt Place the Governor, whom he found ready to concur in all pro-

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per Methods for the Re-eſtabliſhment of their Maintenance. The next Aſſembly, which was to be in *May* following, he ſent to all the Clergy on the *Weſtern* Shore, who only cou'd come together in that Seaſon, to be acquainted from them with the Diſpoſition of the People, and their Sentiments on this Occaſion, and to adviſe with them what was proper to be done in order to diſpoſe the Members of Aſſembly to re-enact their Law next Meeting. Soon after he had diſmiſs'd the Clergy, he made his Parochial Viſitation, as far as it was poſſible for him at that Seaſon; in which he met with very ſingular Reſpect from Perſons of the beſt Condition in the Country, which the Doctor by a happy Conduct (of which he only was not ſenſible) turn'd to the Advantage of that poor Church.

During the Seſſions of Aſſembly, and whilſt the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Church was depending, he preach'd very proper and ſeaſonable Sermons, and all of them with a Tendency to incline the Country to the Eſtabliſhment of the Church and Clergy; all which were ſo well receiv'd, that he had the Thanks of the Aſſembly by Meſſages from the Houſe for them, and for the Services done to that Church and Province.

The Doctor was providentially on ſuch good Terms with the Aſſembly, that they ordered the Attorney-General to adviſe with

with him in the drawing up of the Bill; and that he himſelf might the better adviſe in that Caſe, he ſent for the moſt experienc'd Clergy within Reach, to ſuggeſt to him what upon their own and their Brethren's Experience they found wou'd be of Advantage to them and the Church, to be inſerted in, or left out of it; by which Means the Conſtitution of that Church has much the Advantage of any in *America*.

It may not be amiſs to obſerve in this Place, that as well during the General Court, or Aſſize, which preceded the Aſſembly, and laſted thirteen Days, as during the Seſſions of Aſſembly itſelf, he was under a Neceſſity of much civil but chargeable Entertainment of the Gentlemen of the Province, who univerſally viſited him; a Charge, however, which he thought requiſite, as Circumſtances then were, that he might ſtrengthen his Intereſt in them, the better to promote the Eſtabliſhment of the Clergy's Maintenance.

The Bill being prepared, as it paſs'd with a *Nemine Contradicente*, ſo it was on all Hands own'd and declar'd, that it was very providential that Dr. *Bray* came into the Country at that Juncture. It was look'd upon as a difficult Attempt, to have that Law re-enacted, after two Repulſes at home; it being contrary to the Inſtructions given with all Governors, that when a

Law

Law has been revers'd at Home, a Bill of the ſame Nature ſhou'd be again paſs'd in any of their Aſſemblies. And conſidering alſo the Intereſt of the People to be eas'd of the Forty *per* Poll, and the bad Humour the Country was brought into by the Inſinuations of the *Quakers* and *Papiſts* (no Unnatural Coalition) and the Diſcouragements thoſe who were well-affected to the Church met with, in having their laudable Endeavours for its Eſtabliſhment and Support ſo often repuls'd; all theſe things conſider'd, it was often and univerſally own'd, that had not the Doctor come in when he did the Eſtabliſhment wou'd ſcarcely have been ſo much as attempted, much leſs have ſucceeded. It was undoubtedly deſign'd by the *Quakers*, to put the greateſt Slur upon this new erected Church, and totally to diſcourage any further Strugglings to preſerve it from falling, that they contrived not only to have the Law for its Eſtabliſhment annull'd juſt before the Commiſſary's going for *Maryland*, but that they ſent a *Quaker* with the Order of Council, in the very ſame Ship with him. But it pleas'd God to order it, that this ſhou'd contribute very much to its Eſtabliſhment; the Inſolence of the *Quakers* in that Contrivance, raiſing a great Indignation in the Friends to that Settlement, and the Doctor's Preſence not a

little

little animating them to attempt anew its Restoration.

Soon after the Assembly was up, the Commissary cited the whole Clergy of the Province to a general Visitation at *Annapolis*, to be held *May* 22, 1704; at which Visitation for what was done,

I. In order to prevent Scandals in the Ministers who should come in.

II. To keep them to their Duty of Catechising, Preaching, and Visiting; and,

III. To propagate the true Religion in the Neighbouring Provinces (the first Measures for supporting Missions where no establish'd Maintenance was provided, being laid at that Visitation.) *See the printed Acts thereof.*

At the Close of the Visitation, as will appear by the said Acts, the Clergy taking into Consideration, that the violent Opposition of the *Quakers* against the Establishment of that Church, would in all Probability continue, so as to get the Law for its Establishment, so lately re-enacted, annull'd again at home; they enter'd into Debates, whether it would not be of Consequence to the Preservation and final Settlement of that Church, that the Doctor should

ſhould be requeſted to go home with the Law, and to ſolicit the Royal Aſſent?

It had been before voted, at the Paſſing of the Bill in the Houſe of Burgeſſes, that He ſhould be deſir'd to requeſt his Grace of *Canterbury*, and the Biſhop of *London*, to favour that good Law, by obtaining his Majeſty's Royal Aſſent to it, with all convenient Speed, and the Members who gave him the Account of paſſing their Vote, told him withal, that it was the general Opinion of the Houſe, that he could be moſt ſerviceable therein, by waiting Perſonally on their Lordſhips, rather than by Letters, in which he could not croud all that might be neceſſary to be repreſented concerning the then State of the Church, and the Neceſſity, at that Time, of their utmoſt Patronage; and it was in Debate, whether this ſhould not be made the Deſire of the Aſſembly? But it was thought too unreaſonable a Requeſt from them, who were ſenſible of the great Charge and Fatigue he had already been at, in the Service of that Province, as they had a few Days before acknowledg'd, by a Meſſage of Thanks from that Houſe.

Such were the Sentiments of the Members of the Aſſembly, as to the Neceſſity of his coming Home to ſolicit the Eſtabliſhment of that Church; and the Clergy meeting at their Viſitation, ſome Weeks after,

ter, as they had Time to know more fully the Senſe of the Province upon it, ſo they repreſented it to him, as the earneſt Deſire of the more ſenſible Perſons throughout the Country, as well as of the Aſſembly-Men, that he ſhould go over with the Law for *England*; being aware that the *Quakers* wou'd this laſt Time openly, and the *Papiſts* covertly, make the utmoſt Efforts againſt the Eſtabliſhment of that Church, by falſe Repreſentations at Home, of the Numbers and Riches of their Party, and by inſinuating, that to impoſe upon them an eſtabliſh'd Maintenance for the Clergy, wou'd be prejudicial to the Intereſt of the Province, by obliging ſo many wealthy Traders to remove from thence. The Falſity of which, or any other Suggeſtions, they thought him beſt able to make appear, by the Information he had gain'd from this Viſitation.

And there were many other Advantages to the Church, in thoſe Parts, which they propos'd by his coming Home at that Time, which were urg'd as Reaſons for it, as may be ſeen in the Acts of that Viſitation. Upon the Conſideration of all which, tho' there was no Proviſion cou'd be made there to ſupport him in that Charge, and the Commiſſary's Office wou'd alſo yield him no Profit, it not being tenable by the Law of the Country, but by one reſiding in it; yet upon the Conſideration of much publick Good,

Good, he determin'd himſelf, and took his Voyage ſoon after.

He was no ſooner arrived in *England*, but he found their Apprehenſions in *Maryland* not ill grounded, for the *Quakers* forthwith beſtirr'd themſelves ſo exceedingly, that it was amazing to ſee what Prejudices they had quickly rais'd in thoſe who had then the Cognizance of Plantation-Affairs, and what falſe and formidable Computations they gave in, of the Clergy's Charge to the Country; which falſe Suggeſtions, when they were found to ſtick, even with ſome that ſeem'd well affected to that Church, Dr. *Bray* refuted by a printed Memorial, repreſenting truly the State of the Church of *Maryland*, to the full Satiſfaction of all to whom it was communicated.

And indeed, conſidering the Oppoſition which was made to the Law, when it came home, the Doctor's Preſence ſeem'd to be as ſeaſonable here, as it had been before thought in getting it re-enacted in *Maryland*. For no ſooner was the Occaſion of his ſpeedy Return underſtood [and it did quickly ſpread Abroad of itſelf, even without the printed Account he gave of it] but it created ſuch Cenſures againſt thoſe who appear'd no Well-wiſhers to that Settlement, as perhaps were none of the leaſt

Occaſions that it far'd not again, as formerly it had done.

But tho' the Law, with much Solicitation and Struggling, was preſerv'd from being totally diſannull'd, yet many of the Exceptions which the *Quakers* made againſt it, ſticking with the Lords of Trade, all that could be obtained was, That Dr. *Bray* might, with Advice of Council, draw up another Bill, according to the Inſtructions of that Board, and ſending that Bill to *Maryland*, to be paſs'd into a Law; had the Promiſe that his Majeſty, upon its Return, would confirm it here. In the drawing up of this Bill, he was at great Charge with Council, and after it had been thrice amended at the Plantation-Board, it was at laſt approv'd.

Happy was the Province of *Maryland*, in having its Concerns managed at this critical Juncture, by ſuch an able and indefatigable Agent. The *Quakers* Oppoſition to the Eſtabliſhment now depending, was carried on by united Councils and Contributions; but the Doctor refuted their ſpecious Objections by unanſwerable Reaſons, and placed the Affair in ſuch an advantageous Light, that his Majeſty decided, without any Appearance of Heſitation, in the Church's Favour, and gave the Royal Aſſent in theſe remarkable Words:

Have

Have the Quakers *the Benefit of a Toleration? Let the* Eſtabliſh'd Church *have an Eſtabliſh'd Maintenance.*

This chargeable and laborious Undertaking having ſwallow'd up the Doctor's own ſmall Fortune, a noble * Lord preſented him, after his Return, with a Bill of 300*l.* a ſenſible Proof of his Zeal for the Honour of Religion, and the Support of thoſe who ſacrificed the moſt valuable Intereſts of this Life in its Service. But ſo much did the Doctor avoid all Appearance of Self-Intereſt, that a large Proportion of this was devoted to the Advancement of his publick Deſigns. Tho' he was veſted with the Character of Commiſſary, yet no Share of the Revenue propos'd, was annex'd to it; and this Diſappointment, tho' Injurious in the higheſt degree, was not made by him, either Matter of Complaint there, or of Remonſtrance here.

His Generoſity, which induced him to throw in two Sums of 50 *l.* each, that were preſented to himſelf in *Maryland*, towards defraying the Charge of their Liberaries and Law; his indefatigable Endeavours to promote its Intereſt, together with the Succeſs which attended all his Meaſures for compleating and perfecting the Polity and Eſtabliſhment of that Church, would beſt appear from the ſeveral Orders of Council,

* Lord WEYMOUTH.

Council, from his own Letters to the Governor, Speaker, and Attorney General of *Maryland*, ſhould it not ſwell this Account to too great a Bulk, by tranſcribing of them. Indeed the Relation he contracted at this Juncture to *Maryland*, was what he ever after eſteemed as ſacred and indiſſoluble, which made him Countenance all Advances towards cultivating Religion and Morality in that Province.

After the Return of Dr. *Bray* from thence in 1700-1, he publiſh'd his Circular Letters to the Clergy of *Maryland*, a Memorial repreſenting the preſent State of Religion on the Continent of *North America*, and the Acts of his Viſitation held at *Annapolis*; for which he had the Thanks of the Society above-mention'd: Not only the Biſhop of *London* approved entirely of all theſe Tranſactions, but alſo the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* declared, That he was well ſatisfied with the Reaſons of Dr. *Bray*'s Return from the *Weſt-Indies*; and added, That his Miſſion thither will be of the greateſt Conſequence imaginable to the Eſtabliſhment of Religion in thoſe Parts.

The Doctor, as was before occaſionally obſerved, form'd a Plan of a *Proteſtant* Congregation or Society, for the Propagation of Chriſtian Knowledge, which he laid before the Biſhop of *London*, in the Year 1697, on the Miſcarriage of the Bill for

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Vesting of Lands given to Superstitious Uses in Greenwich Hospital, *and to provide for* Protestant *Missionaries.* On this Plan, a Society was constituted; and tho' the Design of having them incorporated by Charter, cou'd not be then brought to bear, yet they still subsisted, and acted as a Voluntary Society; but their Number and Benefactions encreasing, a different Constitution and more extensive Powers, appear'd necessary for the Success of the Undertaking: Application was therefore made by Dr. *Bray*, to his then Majesty King *William*, for his Royal Charter.* It appears, on con-

* *To the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Humble Petition of* THOMAS BRAY, *D. D.*

Humbly sheweth,

" THAT the Numbers of the Inhabitants of Your Ma-
" jesty's Provinces in *America*, have of late Years,
" greatly increas'd; that in many of the Colonies thereof, more
" especially on the Continent, they are in very much Want of
" Instruction in the *Christian Religion*, and in some of them
" utterly destitute of the same, they not being able of them-
" selves to raise a sufficient Maintenance for an Orthodox Clergy
" to live amongst them, and to make such other Provision, as
" shall be necessary for the Propagation of the Gospel in those
" Parts.

" Your Petitioner further sheweth, That upon his late Ar-
" rival into *England* from thence, and his making known the
" aforesaid Matters in this City and Kingdom, he hath great
" Reason to believe, that many Persons would contribute, as
" well by Legacy, as Gift, if there were any BODY COR-
" PORATE, and of perpetual Succession now in Being, and
" establish'd in this Kingdom, proper for the Lodging of the
" said Legacies and Grants therein.

" Now forasmuch as Your Majesty hath already been gra-
" ciously pleas'd to take the State of the Souls of Your Ma-
" jesty's

consulting the Minutes of the Society, before, and at the Time of the Incorporation, that the Doctor's Petition to his Majesty (for so it was stiled) with other Papers relating to the Corporation to be erected for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was read *May* 5, 1701, and that his Majesty's Letters Patents, under the Great Seal of *England*, for erecting a Corporation, by the Name of *The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, was laid before the Society, by Dr. *Bray*, and read

" jesty's Subjects in those Parts, so far into Consideration, as " to Found, and Endow a *Royal College* in *Virginia*, for the " Religious Education of their Youth, Your Petitioner is there- " by the more encouraged to hope, that Your Majesty will " also favour any the like Designs and Ends, which shall be " Prosecuted by proper and effectual Means.

" Your Petitioner therefore, who has lately been among " Your Majesty's Subjects aforesaid, and has seen their Wants " and knows their Desires, is the more embolden'd, humbly " to request, that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to " issue Letters Patent, to such Persons as Your Majesty shall " think fit, thereby Constituting them A BODY POLITICK " and CORPORATE, and to grant to them, and their Suc- " cessors, such Powers, Privileges and Immunities, as Your " Majesty in great Wisdom shall think meet and necessary for " the Effecting the aforesaid Ends and Designs.

And Your Petitioner shall ever Pray, &c,

THOMAS BRAY.

WHITE-HALL, *April 7th*, 1701.

" HIS Majesty having been moved upon this PETITION, " is graciously pleas'd to refer the same to Mr. Attorney, " or Mr. Solicitor-General, to consider thereof, and Report " his Opinion, what His Majesty may fitly do therein; where- " upon His Majesty will declare His further Pleasure.

JA. VERNON.

read the 9th of *June* following. The Gentlemen who compos'd that venerable Body, were so sensible how much was owing to the Zeal and Solicitation of the Doctor, that it was resolv'd, that Thanks should be return'd to him, for his great Care and Pains in procuring the Grant of the said Letters. If this Society is now enabled, by a Revenue arising from occasional Benefactions and settled Endowments, to support a Number of Missionaries, School-Masters, and Catechists, for the Propagation of Christianity in Foreign Parts, the zealous Labours of Dr. *Bray* must be remember'd with Gratitude and Honour, to which it chiefly owes its Establishment. The Author of *A Letter from a Residing Member of the Society of* London, *for Promoting Christian Knowledge, to a Corresponding Member in the Country*, has done him Justice in his Account of the Origin of the Incorporated Society; he observes, *That it took its Rise from the indefatigable Endeavours of a Reverend Clergyman now living* (*Dr.* Bray) *to promote Christian Knowledge in our Foreign Plantations.*

In the Year 1703, Dr. *Bray* publish'd an Essay, to shew the incompetent Provision in many Parishes, thro' a great Part of the Kingdom, to enable the Clergy to instruct the People; so general a Disposition was excited to encourage this excellent Work,

that as his other Design of forming a Society for propagating the Gospel, was establish'd by Royal Charter, so this of founding Libraries was brought to Maturity, by gradual Advances, under the Patronage of the Legislature; for an Act of Parliament pass'd in the Seventh Year of Queen *Anne*, intitled, *An Act for the better Preservation of Parochial Libraries in that Part of* Great Britain *call'd* England. Sir *Peter King*, afterwards Lord Chancellor, was the Gentleman who brought the Bill into the House, one then equally distinguish'd by his Knowledge of Christianity, and his Zeal for it.

In the Year 1712, the Doctor printed his *Martyrology*, or *Papal Usurpation*, in one Folio. That nothing might be wanting to enrich and adorn the Work, he establish'd a Correspondence with learned Foreigners of the first Distinction, and call'd in the Assistance of the most eminent Hands. This Work consists of some choice and learned Treatises of celebrated Authors, which were grown very scarce, ranged and digested into as regular an History as the Nature of the Subject wou'd admit. He propos'd to compile a Second Volume, and had, at no small Expence and Pains, furnished himself with Materials for it; but he was afterwards oblig'd to lay the Prosecution of this Design aside, and bequeath'd,

by

by Will, his valuable Collection of *Martyrological Memoirs*, both Printed and Manuſcript, to *Sion College*. He was, indeed, ſo great a Maſter of the *Hiſtory of Popery*, that few Authors cou'd be preſum'd able, with equal Acuracy and Learning, to trace the Origin and Growth of thoſe exorbitant Claims which are made by the See of *Rome*.

He was happily form'd by Nature, both for the active and the retir'd Life: Charity to the Souls of other Men, was wrought up to the higheſt Pitch in his own: Every Reflection on the dark and forlorn Condition of the *Indians* and *Negroes*, excited in his Boſom the moſt generous Emotions of Pity and Concern. He conceiv'd nothing ſo deſirable as to be the Inſtrument of recovering thoſe loſt Sheep, and bringing them into the Fold of their Heavenly Paſtor. His Voyage to *Holland*, to ſolicit King *William*'s Protection and Encouragement to his good Deſigns; and the Proofs he gave of a publick Spirit and diſintereſted Zeal, in ſuch a Series of generous Undertakings, obtain'd him the Eſteem of Mr. *D'Allone* of the *Hague*, a Gentleman not more celebrated for his Penetration and Addreſs in State Affairs, than for a pious Diſpoſition of Mind. A juſt Senſe of the ineſtimable Bleſſings reach'd out to Mankind by the Goſpel, inſpir'd him with a Zeal to make thoſe who lay without the Chri-

ſtian

ſtian Pale, Partakers of them. An Epiſtolary Correſpondence commenced very early between him and the Doctor upon this Subject; the Reſult whereof was, that he gave, in his Life-time, a Sum to be applied to the Converſion of the Negroes, deſiring withal, the Doctor to accept the Management and Diſpoſal of it. But that a ſtanding Proviſion might be made for this Purpoſe, Mr. *D'Allone* bequeath'd by his laſt Will, a certain Proportion of his *Engliſh* Eſtate to Dr. *Bray* and his Aſſociates, towards erecting a Capital Fund or Stock, for converting the Negroes in the *Britiſh* Plantations; the Doctor was acquainted by the Right Honourable the Lord Viſcount *Palmerſton*, ſoon after Mr. *D'Allone*'s Death, with his having left this noble Bequeſt, which amounted to the Sum of 900 *l.* and it happening ſoon after, namely, in *Chriſtmas* 1723, Dr. *Bray* had ſo dangerous a Sickneſs, that his Recovery was out of Hope; my Lord *Palmerſton* was pleas'd to intimate, that it would be requiſite he ſhould nominate and appoint, by Deed, ſuch as he would deſire to have Aſſociates with him in the Diſpoſition of the Legacy; this he accordingly did, chuſing Gentlemen of whoſe Affections to this, and his other pious Deſigns, he had ample Experience.

The

The Doctor finding by the Words of Mr. *D'Allone's* Will, as well as by his former Letters, that he depended much upon him to form and model the Design; that he might not be wanting to give the best Assistance he could to a Work so truly Christian, he immediately applied himself to form a Scheme for the most effectual Proceeding in this Affair, tho' the Legacy could not soon be paid in, yet in Assurance of its Certainty, being intrusted to a Person so truly Honourable as my Lord *Palmerston*, he endeavour'd, as occasion offer'd, to set it a going. This he did, by sounding the Inclinations of some Missionaries sent to him by the Bishop of *London*, whether they would engage in the Measures proposed for the Instruction of the Negroes which they should find (as they would find many) in their several Cures? Those whom he observed well disposed to it, he furnished with Books, as necessary Helps to them and their Successors, in discharging that Part of their Office; and as a farther Encouragement, he furnish'd them with other smaller Pieces, more immediately proper for the Instruction of the Negroes. When the Legacy was paid, the early Issues from it being too inconsiderable to begin the Work in such a manner as might assure to himself, and his Associates, the desir'd Event, there was an apparent Necessity

ceſſity either of breaking in upon the Capital, or of furniſhing Books on its Credit. The Doctor being deſirous that the Legacy might be handed down to his Succeſſors in the Truſt, without any Defalcation, choſe to make up the Deficiencies at his own Expence, and charge what was expended in thoſe Proviſions on the Fund. He did not propoſe to receive any Intereſt for his Money, and at his Death, obliged his Executrix to ſubmit to the Diſadvantage of a gradual Reimburſement.

The better to prepare for the Work, ſuch as came to him being generally young Divines who had not read much, he lent them ſuch Books as he thought proper to employ their Studies whilſt they ſhould remain in *London*, and put them upon a Catechetical Exerciſe on *Sunday* Evenings in his own Pariſh *. Indeed he conceived it would be of ſingular Uſe to have ſuch Miſſionaries under a Probation here, before ſent abroad, and for this End founded a Probationary Library, that during the Time of their Probation, they might read over a whole Courſe of Divinity, whereby they would be rendered more fit to teach, and give ſome Specimens of their preaching Abilities. No

* St. *Botolph* without *Aldgate*, which had been again offer'd to him, and was accepted by him, in the Year 1706.

No fix'd and invariable Scheme can be here always purſued, Time and Change of Circumſtances may render different Meaſures neceſſary; ſeveral of the Plantation-Clergy, want no other Inducements than thoſe ariſing from the Nature of their Function, to direct their Endeavours to this End. They have not objected the Extent of their Cures, but the Scarcity and Dearneſs of Books, which are ſo neceſſary to enable them to ſucceed in their Labours; as the Fund inlarges, it may extend to Pecuniary Gratuities, and other Encouragements as ſhall be thought moſt expedient. The Accounts that have been tranſmitted from the Plantations, ſufficiently diſcover the Succeſs that has attended this Method hitherto obſerv'd in conducting the Deſign; but the Doctor left his Aſſociates at liberty to proceed in any other of their own forming.

In the Year 1726, he was employ'd in compoſing and printing his *Directorium Miſſionarium*, his *Primordia Bibliothecaria*, and ſome other Tracts of the like kind. About this Time alſo, he wrote a ſhort Account of Mr. *Rawlet*, the pious Author of the *Chriſtian Monitor*, reprinted the Life of Mr. *Gilpin* and *Eraſmus*'s *Eccleſiaſtes*; ſome of theſe were calculated for the Uſe of the Miſſion, and in one, he has endeavour'd to ſhew, That civilizing the

Indians

Indians muſt be the firſt Step, in any ſucceſsful Attempt for their Converſion. In his *Primordia Bibliothecaria*, we have ſeveral Schemes of Parochial Libraries, and a Method laid down to proceed, by a gradual Progreſſion, from Strength to Strength, from a Collection, not much exceeding, in Value, one Pound to an Hundred. His Attention to other good Works, occaſion'd no Diſcontinuance of this Deſign, whoſe Succeſs was ſo much the Object of his Deſires, and accordingly Benefactions came in ſo faſt, that he had Buſineſs enough upon his Hands to form the Libraries deſir'd, and to diſcharge himſelf of them. As the furniſhing the Parochial Clergy with the Means of Inſtruction, wou'd be an effectual Method to promote Chriſtian Knowledge; ſo another Expedient, manifeſtly ſubſervient to the ſame End wou'd be, he thought, to imprint on the Minds of thoſe who are admitted into the Miniſtry, previouſly to their Admiſſion, a juſt Senſe of its various Duties, and their great Importance; with this View he reprinted the *Eccleſiaſtes* of *Eraſmus*, a Name of great Authority in the *Republick of Letters*, and to whom the Reeſtabliſhment of Polite Literature was principally owing. This Treatiſe was written at the Deſire of a Biſhop of the *Romiſh* Church, and it is well worthy our Obſervation, with how much Energy the learned

Author

Author employs all the Arguments that he could think proper, to excite a conſcientious Regard to the Weight of the Miniſterial Office, and a becoming Diligence in the Diſcharge of it. As excellent as this Performance is, it lay before mix'd and undiſtinguiſh'd in his voluminous Works, and could rarely fall into the Hands of any, except thoſe few who have Acceſs to publick Libraries; ſo that a diſtinct Impreſſion of it, is what the Doctor might juſtly intend, as a common Benefit to the greater Part of his own Order. Take his Opinion of the Book, and his View in reprinting it, in his own Words:* "Whenever I take into my Hands this invaluable Piece of *Eraſmus* his *Eccleſiaſtes*, "methinks I experience what has been "often ſaid to be found by others, with "reſpect to that of *Thomas* à *Kempis De* "*Imitatione Chriſti*, namely, That let a "Man read him never ſo often, every "Time he will find ſomething new in "him; ſo poinant, ſo penetrating are the "Periods and Sentiments of the learned "*Eraſmus*, relating to this great Concern, even to the exceeding himſelf in "every thing he wrote.

"And it were much to be wiſh'd, that "among the many other Tracts in Divi-

* See his *Primordia Bibliothecaria*, Pages 13, 14, 15.

" nity, or relating to that Subject, requi-
" ſite to be thoroughly read in our Uni-
" verſities, by thoſe who are deſign'd for
" the Miniſtry, previouſly to their En-
" trance into Holy Orders. It were to
" be wiſh'd, I ſay, that their Peruſal of
" this, or ſome other Tract upon the
" Paſtoral Care, were ſtrictly inſiſted on,
" and nicely enquir'd into, before their
" College Teſtimonials ſhould be granted
" them. And it is moreover humbly ap-
" prehended, that it would not be amiſs if
" a farther and more particular Examina-
" tion ſhould be made afterwards, by ſuch
" as uſually examine the Candidates before
" their Admiſſion into Holy Orders, whe-
" ther they are ſo acquainted with this
" admirable Piece of *Eraſmus*, as to have
" imbibed his noble Sentiments concern-
" ing the Paſtoral Care. Surely if ſuch
" Injunctions were generally given con-
" cerning a previous Conſideration of the
" Duties of a Miniſter, few or none would
" dare ſo precipitately and unpreparedly to
" thruſt themſelves, merely in view of a
" Livelihood or Preferment, into the Office
" of Deacons and Presbyters, as to many,
" alas! have been found to do, without
" conſidering, that *Onus Angelicis humeris*
" *formidandum*, as a great Man ſpeaks
" this of the Paſtoral Office to be, and

" with-

" without conſidering how unequal their
" Shoulders are to bear it.

" In ſhort, I may venture to ſay, that
" few of thoſe many who have written
" upon the Nature and Importance of the
" *Paſtoral Care*, ever exceeded the moſt
" eloquent and learned *Eraſmus*, in his
" awful Way of delivering his Sentiments
" on this weighty Office. Every Period in
" his firſt Book of his *Eccleſiaſtes*, being ſo
" pungent, and ſo admirably well levell'd
" at the bold Precipitancy and wretched
" Views with which many, too many
" enter into Holy Orders; and I am per-
" ſuaded, that being read over before-hand,
" it would deter, ſome at leaſt, from ven-
" turing, *illotis manibus*, upon an Office
" they are ſo little qualified for, as a Thing
" in itſelf, horridly profane and audacious
" in them; and the ſerious and frequent
" Peruſal of the ſame afterward, even
" through the whole Courſe of a Mini-
" ſtry, would ſtimulate and invigorate
" even the beſt qualified and diſpoſed
" among us, to execute the ſacred Truſt
" to the Honour of our great Redeemer,
" and the promoting of his Kingdom, by
" the Deſtruction of the Dominion of Sin
" and Satan.

In the Year 1727, an Acquaintance of Dr. *Bray*'s made a caſual Viſit to *White-Chapel* Priſon, and his Repreſentation of

the miſerable State of the Priſoners, had ſuch an Effect on the Doctor, that he immediately apply'd himſelf to ſolicit Benefactions, in order to relieve them, and he had ſoon Contributions ſufficient to provide a Quantity of Bread, Beef, and Broth on *Sundays*, and now and then on the intermediate Days, for this Priſon and the *Borough Compter* : To Temporal, he always endeavour'd to join Spiritual Proviſions ; and to inure them to the moſt diſtaſteful Parts of their Office, the intended Miſſionaries were here employ'd in Reading and Preaching. On this Occaſion the Sore was firſt open'd, and that Scene of Inhumanity imperfectly diſcover'd ; which, afterwards ſome worthy Patriots of the *Houſe of Commons*, took ſo much Pains to enquire into and redreſs : That Zeal and Compaſſion which led them to carry on this Inſpection, and regulate many groſs Abuſes, cou'd not but procure them the Eſteem of one diſtinguiſhed by ſuch an extenſive Benevolence as Dr. *Bray*.

The Divine Guardianſhip apparently accompanied both his Deſigns of founding Libraries, and converting the Negroes. The former, particularly, was advanced under the Patronage of Perſons in the higheſt Stations ; but being now far advanced in Years, and continually reminded of his approaching Change, by the Imbecility

cility and Decays of old Age, he was desirous of enlarging the Number of his Associates, and adding such to them, in whose Zeal and Integrity he might repose an entire Confidence. The Enquiry into the State of the Goals was an Event, which at this Juncture, providentially occasioned an Interview between the Doctor and Mr. (now General) *Oglethorpe*. This worthy Gentleman, when it was propos'd, wanted no Arguments to prevail upon him to accept the Trust, and engaged several others,* some of the first Rank and Distinction, to act with him and the former Associates; all the Undertakings, indeed, were of such a Nature, as well deserved the Support of Men of great and generous Minds.

To these two Designs of founding Libraries, and instructing the Negroes, a Third was now added, which, tho' at first View, it appears to be of a different Nature, has a perfect Coincidence with them; the miserable Condition of Multitudes, for want of Employment, has of late excited the highest Degree of Compassion in the Breasts of all charitable Persons: The Provision which the Legislature has made, by a late Act for erecting Parish Work-houses, proves insufficient; and therefore, out of the same charitable Regard to Mankind, a Design was formed of establishing a Colony in *America*,

* See a List of the Associates at the End.

America, than which none can be better intitled to Consideration and Encouragement. The Advantages which will accrue to the Publick, from such a Settlement, is a Subject of too large an Extent to be considered here, and out of my Province.

I must not omit mentioning the Part Dr. *Bray* bore in establishing the Society *For Reformation of Manners*, in setting up *Charity-Schools*, and erecting a Society for the *Relief of poor Proselytes*; most of the Religious Societies in *London* owe grateful Acknowledgments to his Memory, and are in a great Measure formed on the Plans he projected.

And now the Doctor having happily lodged his principal Designs in the Hands of able Managers, being on the Verge of the Grave, he could not but review his Undertakings with Complacency, and thank the good Providence of God, which appeared, to lay such Trains for their Advancement. His Conscience crown'd him with a secret Applause, which was an inexhaustable Source of comfortable Reflections and joyful Presages in his last Minutes.

The END

A LIST *of the* ASSOCIATES *of the late Dr.* BRAY.

JOHN *Lord Viſcount* Percival, *now Earl of* Egmont.
The Reverend Mr. (*now Dr.*) Stephen Hales
William Belitha, *Eſq*;
The Honourable Edward Digby, *Eſq*;
The Honourable George Carpenter, *Eſq*; *now Lord* Carpenter
James Oglethorpe, *Eſq*; *now Major-General*
Edward Harley, *Eſq*;
The Honourable James Vernon, *Eſq*;
Edward Hughes, *Eſq*;
Robert Hucks, *Eſq*;
Thomas Tower, *Eſq*;
Rogers Holland, *Eſq*;
John Laroche, *Eſq*;
Major Charles Selwyn
Robert More, *Eſq*;
William Sloper, *Eſq*;
Oliver St. John, *Eſq*;
Henry Haſtings, *Eſq*;
George Heathcote, *Eſq*;
Francis Eyles, *Eſq*;
Mr. Adam Anderſon
Sir James Lowther
Captain Thomas Coram
The Reverend Mr. Digby Cotes
The Reverend Mr. Arthur Bedford
The Reverend Mr. Samuel Smith
The Reverend Mr. Richard Bundy
The Reverend Mr. John Barton
The Reverend Mr. Daniel Somerſcald.